

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09977 151150Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /078 W
-----151153Z 075919 /53

R 151121Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6178
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T CAIRO 9977

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET, EG, US
SUBJECT: FAHMY AGAIN URGES U.S. ARMS FOR SOMALIA

1. WHEN RELATING BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT OF STRONG SOVIET SUPPORT FOR MENGISTU (SEPTEL), FAHMY AGAIN MADE PITCH FOR U.S. ARMS FOR SOMALIA. SOVIETS, YUGOSLAVS, AND LIBYANS ARE ALL HELPING MENGISTU. SOME ISRAELIS ALSO STILL IN ETHIOPIA. ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ETHIOPIAN MILITIA MEN HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND, ACCORDING GOE INFORMATION, WILL SHORTLY BE USED TO "MASSACRE" ALL DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.

2. GOE, FAHMY NOTED, IS PROVIDING ERITREANS AND SOMALIS WITH SMALL ARMS TO MEET THE THREAT. AS RESULT USG EFFORTS, SAUDIS HAVE ALSO "MOVED A LITTLE BIT" BY PROVIDING SIAD BARRE WITH \$15 MILLION. BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO MEET THE ETHIOPIAN THREAT. UNLESS THE MENGISTU REGIME CAN BE BROUGHT DOWN IN NEXT FEW MONTHS, IT WILL BE A SERIOUS THREAT TO SUDAN, SOMALIA, AND OTHER FRIENDLY STATES.

3. I REMINDED FAHMY THAT WE HAVE OFFERED ECONOMIC HELP TO SOMALIA AND ARE CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING IN
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A CONSORTIUM THROUGH WHICH SOME KIND OF ARMS MIGHT BE OBTAINED. FAHMY REPLIED THAT THIS IS HELPFUL, BUT NOT ENOUGH. USG SHOULD PROVIDE ARMS DIRECTLY.

4. SUDANESE, HE WENT ON, HAD TOLD HIM AMBASSADOR YOUNG RECENTLY SUGGESTED IN KHARTOUM THAT THERE BE A "DIVISION OF INFLUENCE" IN EASTERN AFRICA: SOVIETS

MIGHT BE PRINCIPAL INFLUENCE IN EHTIOPIA AND SOMALIA
AND U.S. IN SUDAN AND EGYPT. HE DID NOT KNOW
WHETHER THIS REFLECTS USG POLICY, BUT WISHED US TO
KNOW THAT ANY SUCH CONCEPT SMACKS OF "SPHERES OF
INFLUENCE" AND IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT. AS
WE SHOULD KNOW, SOMALIS ARE CHAFING UNDER PRE-
EMINENT SOVIET INFLUENCE AND WANT TO GET OUT FROM
UNDER IT. WHATEVER DOUBTS GOE MAY HAVE ABOUT SIAD
BARRE, EGYPT INTENDS TO HELP HIM TO DO SO. USG
SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE SIAD BARRE'S DILEMMA AND BE
MORE RESPONSIVE. SOMALIA NEEDS ARMS. AS HE UNDER-
STOOD OUR NEW ARMS POLICY, SUCH ASSISTANCE SHOULD
NOT BE PRECLUDED SINCE IT IS AS MUCH IN USG INTEREST
AS IN ANYONE ELSE'S TO ENCOURAGE SOMALIS GET RID OF
SOVIET NAVAL BASES.

5. I TOLD HIM THAT WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF SOMALI
DESIRSES. AS HE KNEW, WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT WE
CAN DO TO HELP AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. I WOULD
CONVEY HIS APPEAL, BUT COULD NOT OFFER MUCH ENCOUR-
AGEMENT ON ARMS ISSUE.

6. COMMENT: FAHMY WAS CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET
DETERMINATION SUPPORT MENGISTU AS APPARENTLY STATED
UNEQUIVOCALLY BE BREZHNEV. EGYPTIANS WANT MENGISTU
REGIME TO COLLAPSE, AND SOO, THROUGH INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL PRESSURES. IN THIS CONTEXT, WHILE NOT
STATING SO PUBLICLY, THEY ARE PRIVATELY TALKING
ABOUT RETURN OF ETHNIC SOMALI SPEAKING OGADEN
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AREA TO SOMALIA AS ONE MEANS OF WEAKENING MENGISTU.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, ARMS, MILITARY SALES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770656/aaaabwnj.tel
Line Count: 99
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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